

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HONG K 02268 232353Z
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W
-----008584 232357Z /70/53
R 220414Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9108

UNCLAS HONG KONG 2268

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR OMISSION OF TEXT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: CHINA GRAIN PURCHASES

FOLLOWING SENT USDA/FAS WASHDC DTG 210759Z FEB 78 HERE REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS HONG KONG 2268

FOR NOVOTNY, G/F, FCA
FM AG OFFICER

1. THE PRC RECENTLY PURCHASED 5,000 MT OF MUNG BEANS, VALUED AT
US\$2 MILLION, FROM THAILAND. THE PURCHASE IS OF INTEREST BECAUSE
THIS IS THE FIRST CHINESE PURCHASE OF MUNG BEANS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF.

APPARENTLY THE BEANS ARE GOING TO BE IMPORTED INTO SOUTH CHINA.
MUNG BEANS ARE A RELATIVELY MINOR WINTER GRAIN CROP IN SOUTH CHINA
AND ARE NORMALLY UTILIZED IN PASTRIES AND ALSO COOKED WITH GLUTINOUS
RICE. THE IMPORTATION OF BEANS INTO SOUTH CHINA SEEMINGLY SUB-
STANTIATES LOCAL REPORTS OF TIGHT FOOD SUPPLIES IN THAT REGION.

2. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL GRAIN TRADER, THE CHINESE RECENTLY TRIED
TO BUY TURKISH WHEAT BUT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. THE SAME TRADER RE-
PORTED THAT AUSTRALIA'S WHEAT CROP IS VERY SHORT AND WILL BE UNABLE
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TO SELL WHEAT TO CHINA THIS YEAR. THE WHEAT ALREADY PURCHASED FROM
AUSTRALIA WILL BE DELIVERED AS SCHEDULED. ERISMAN
UNQUOTE
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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